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Letter to Jennie Guiney, 1861 August 8

Patrick Guiney

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Artinboro Heights, Va.
August 8th. 1861

My dear Jennie:

The last letter which
I received from you infor-
med me that you would
write another and a longer
one to me the next day. Now
dear, if you did so I would
have had it two days
ago. I thought it would
come in to-days mail, but
it did not. O! I have a great
mind to scold you for ex-
citing my anticipation and
then disappointing me. If
I were at home now, how I
would pound, swing my shoulders
nervously, sit down on a chair,
and get up again, go out
in the yard, yell hard on

my cigar, come in again
looking grim, take a
private secret peep at you
to see if you were laughing
at my nonsense; and then,
if you were, how I would
take hold of you and twit
you round to me, and break
the little cloud with an
amazingly long kiss! But
I ^{will not} ~~can't~~ say a word to you
for probably I will get the
letter tomorrow or next
day, and it will be full of
dear words and good thoughts,
and then, if I had said any-
thing cross to you in this,
how sorry I should be, darling!
I always look ahead, you see,
more especially when my dear
precious wife is in the long
waving distance.

Since I wrote to you

lost, I had a fortunate opportu-
-nity to visit Washington. I
went on last Monday and while
I had few moments to spare
I stepped into a saloon and
had an ambrotype taken and
I sent on to you by Adams
Express. I thought it quite accu-
-rate except the face and head
which are rather indistinct, on
account of having it taken full
size. I met Hon. Theodore Tilton
there, ^(in the city) and also John McHenry
of Rocky. They both promi-
sed to call and see you on return
home. Our place of encampment
remains has not been changed
since I wrote to you before;
but we are Brigaded under
General Sherman now and
we ^{know} not how soon our loca-
-tion may be changed. He is
the same Sherman of whom

Meagher in last week's Irish
American, speaks so scathing-
-ly. Unless, on further acquain-
-tance I change my mind in
regard to him, I will contin-
-ue to agree with Mr. Meagher
in saying that Sherman "is
a rude and ignorant martinet".
But what need I care for
these fellows, they hardly
ever interfere with me or
anything which concerns
me. Fitzgerald, also, is another
whom they will not trouble.
They are wise enough to know
that either, or both of us
could make an essential
contribution to that storm
which might be, at any time,
agitated to their public
destruction. ‡

I see that in last Sunday's

Herald (Boston) I am slightly noticed by the correspondent of that paper in this camp. This is surprising as I am not of those who court favors from news-paper writers in camp, as I regard them as flunkies and panderers.

Last night the Cavalry Company which is attached to our Brigade, met with a severe repulse near the Chain Bridge, on the Potomac. As usual, the repulse was the result of a blunder. We are frequently turned out here to meet the enemy in the night time, but he never comes near enough to give us battle. Everybody here is in good health and our Hospital is emptier than that of any regiment in

the Army of the Potomac. This shows that our men are neither starved ~~nor~~ exhausted.

I understand that our Brigade is looked to as being the fighting Brigade of the Army here and the next Battle fought in Eastern Virginia will find our Regiment, I think, in the smoke of the field; yet, as Mc Lellan is to command, I apprehend no such loss of life, no such miserable blundering as occurred at Bull Run.

The weather is extremely hot here ^{in daytime}, but in the night it is so lovely here that I am constantly reminded of my native home. Who knows but you and I would settle down in Virginia yet?
J. W. F.